



# the **RARA RAG**

Published by

**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

VOL. 56

MAY 2004

NO.9

## **Rochester Amateur Radio Association inc. Annual Corp. Meeting & Election of Officers**

**AND THE NOMINEES ARE:**

**FOR VICE - PRESIDENT:**

**George Shapow NY20**

I have been a ham since 1956, originally licensed as WA2UOS and now NY20. My interests in ham radio included avid collecting of antique and old equipment. I currently have 24 complete, working stations and many pieces of other equipment. I enjoy operating when I can find an opening. I'm not into contests but would like to try one and I enjoy a good rag-chew with anyone far or near.

*CONTINUED NOMINEES PAGE 4*

## **Old Timer's Night**

**Brad Armstrong, W1YX. Vice President**

Attendance and interest at last month's talk on APRS by Jim DeTucci, N2IXD, were both great! I was disappointed that the meeting itself ran longer than expected, which meant

*CONTINUED OLD TIMER'S PAGE 10*

## **RaRa MEETING**

**MAY 7, 2004**

**8:00 PM**

**HENRIETTA FIRE HALL  
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD.**

## **OLD TIMERS NIGHT**

**Presented by**

**Ed Gable K2MP/W2AN**

## **70<sup>th</sup> Rochester Hamfest June 4-5-6**

**Harold Smith, K2HC**

The 70th annual Rochester Hamfest combined with the Atlantic Division Convention will be held at the Monroe County Fairgrounds Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5-6.

Your help is still needed. Get busy sending email messages to merchants you would like to see exhibit at the Hamfest. Get their email addresses from their web sites. Site addresses are listed in their advertisements appearing in QST, CQ and other amateur radio publications. Tell them you need to see and feel their products and services in person.

Visit the Hamfest web site regularly, [www.rochesterhamfest.org](http://www.rochesterhamfest.org), to learn the latest official information. The Hamfest web site is updated daily.

There is an annual awards ceremony and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Hamfest Headquarters, the Holiday Inn Rochester South at 1111 Jefferson Road. Your new club officers are installed at that dinner. Plan to attend.

Tickets at special club prices for the Hamfest, flea market parking and the dinner will be available at the May meeting.

Advance ticket sale closes May 15. After that date, all tickets must be purchased at the gates.

## **From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT April 16, 2004 To all radio amateurs**

**SB QST ARL ARLB012 FCC proposes wide-ranging changes to Amateur Service rules**

The FCC has released an "omnibus" Notice

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# the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

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VOL. 56 MAY 2004 NO.9

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The RARA RAG (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 24 Elaine Drive Rochester, NY 14623. Subscription is \$5.00 per year (included in the annual membership dues and may not be purchased separately). Periodicals postage paid in Rochester, NY.

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The RARA RAG, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, New York 14692-8333. Full permission is granted for reprinting articles provided a credit line is given to the RARA RAG. The RAG exchanges, with other organizations' publications.

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## PREZ SEZ...

George Platteter, AA2FO

Time has really flown. It's hard to believe this will be my last Prez Sez article. After this the pen will be passed to Brad Armstrong, W1YX, and our incoming President, who will take a turn at flexing his literary talents. I'm sure he is looking forward to it. I do want to take this time to thank the many members who "had been there before" and gave me the much needed help and support to perform my duties as President. Believe me it has been much appreciated. Thanks Ed, N2EH,. And Keith, N2BEL, for the great organization of our Public Service Events. We have a constantly updated website (www.rochesterham.org), a valuable service by Peter, W2SKY. Our Treasurer's books have been kept in order these many years, and the balances are healthy, thanks to Dick, KG2I. Harold, K2HC has another Hamfest ready and waiting for us. Judy, N2KXS and Greg, KC2GXVW have done a marvelous job with ARES. We have a club station group in action on station redevelopment, and the many, many who have worked tirelessly in educational efforts also deserve a big hand. Count them: license classes; Radio Coaches; the Explorer Scout classes; VE testing; this Rag ; ISS/shuttle communication for schools; and more. We have had outstanding programs at our meetings, thanks to all the presenters and to Brad for logistics. Ray WA2MYG thanks for a great year with the Rag. Finally, let's thank Greg KC2GXV for his great Awards program and Tom, KA2GXX, the reliable donuts and coffee man. (I know I could name many more.)

So let's have some fun. Warmer weather has been promised, making activities, such as the Annual Meeting on May 7, Hamfest, June 4, 5, and 6, and the picnic, June 19, a lot more enjoyable. Maybe take in the Hamfest banquet on Friday night, June 4, at the Holidome.

As of this writing, I'm not sure just what hotdog brands are in order for the picnic, but we will have something just like last year's annual Fox Hunt by Jon Dickason, N2JAC. I do remember something about multiple foxes.

I would like to thank you for all the nice comments I have heard about the Club this year, and again, thank you for all your support during my term as President. See you at the meeting



of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rule changes. The FCC also denied several petitions for rule making aimed at altering portions of the Amateur Radio regulatory landscape and ordered minor changes in Part 97. The NPRM is a result of a dozen petitions for rule making, all filed more than a year ago and some as long ago as 2001.

Comments on the proposals put forth in WT Docket 04-140 are due by Tuesday, June 15, with reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan, which can be seen on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/refarm/>.

"Because the ARRL petition addresses the operating privileges of all classes of licensees on these Amateur Service bands, we believe that the ARRL petition provides a basis for a comprehensive restructuring of operating privileges," the FCC said.

The ARRL referenced its Novice refarming proposal in its recent Petition for Rule Making, RM-10867, which, along with three other petitions remains open for comment until April 23.

The FCC also has proposed essentially eliminating its rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz. The current rules "impose unnecessary restrictions on manufacturers of Amateur Radio equipment and are inconsistent with the experimental nature of the Amateur Service," the FCC said.

The FCC proposed amending Section 97.201(b) of the rules to permit auxiliary operation on 2 meters above 144.5 MHz, with the exception of the satellite subband 145.8 to 146.0 MHz, in addition to frequency segments already authorized.

The FCC proposed extending the bands available for spread spectrum experimentation and use to include 222-225 MHz as well as 6 and 2 meters. Current rules limit SS emissions to frequencies above 420 MHz.

Among other things, the FCC also proposed to prohibit acceptance of more than one application per applicant per

vanity call sign; permit retransmission of communications between a manned spacecraft and its associated Earth stations, including the International Space Station; allow current amateurs to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to acquire their call sign in memoriam; eliminate Section 97.509(a) of the rules, which requires a public announcement of volunteer examiner test locations and times; and add to Section 97.505(a) to provide Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit to any applicant holding a Technician license granted after February 14, 1991, and who can document having passed a telegraphy examination element.

The Commission ordered some changes in Part 97 without requesting comment. It ordered, among others, the revision of the definition of an "amateur operator" in Section 97.3(a)(1) to reflect that entry in the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS), not a license document, determines whether a person is an Amateur Radio operator.

The FCC adopted a technical change to specify that the mean power of any spurious emission from a new amateur station transmitter or amplifier operating below 30 MHz be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission.

Among other petitions, the FCC turned down a proposal to establish distinct CW and phone segments in the 160-meter band. Also denied were petitions that would have imposed restrictions on the time, length or transmission frequencies of bulletins or informational transmissions directed at the amateur community and a request to add to the special event call sign system certain call sign blocks designating territories and possessions that lack mailing addresses.

The FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making, on the web at, [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-79A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-79A1.doc), in WT Docket 04-140, is available on the FCC Web site.

As soon as the document has been posted, comments on the NPRM may be filed via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System at, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Click on "Submit a filing." To view filed comments, click on "Search for filed comments." In either case enter the NPRM number in "Proceeding" field as "04-140" (without the quotation marks).



I currently serve as treasurer on the board of Everyone's Theater Company, and have served on many board positions for several organizations. I am an amateur actor but don't ask me to dance. It wouldn't be a pretty sight. I would personally like to work with the board of RaRa to add what I can in the present and future challenges of continuing the long established traditions of the club and making it even stronger in the future.

#### FOR SECRETARY:

##### Walter J Watson MD KC2MGJ

'My nickname is 'Wedge' (No one calls me Walter except telemarketers and My mother when she's mad at me I was just granted a technician license In December following the ham class given by RaRa at RIT I have been Interested in amateur radio since I was 10 but had delayed further in Action until medical problems forced we to retire from medical practice In 1991. I had for a long time promised myself that I would pursue Ham Radio 'sometime' last September that time came and I enrolled in the entry level class.

My radio interests right now settle on emergency communication I am

Also interested in QRP Regardless of outcome I am feel honored and gratified to have been nominated.

#### FOR TREASURER:

##### George Masny KA2GPJ

George is the current RaRa Membership Chairman and a three-year veteran of the RaRa Board of Directors. He holds a General Class license, and has managed to keep his call active since 1975 in spite of being married and helping his wife raise 3 wonderful (adult now) kids. He's been fiddling with radios since 1957 or 58, when he used a toilet paper roll core to wind the coil for a crystal set. The radio worked great ? It picked up a lot of Spanish speaking stations, not much of a surprise as he was living in Buenos Aires at the time? His first ham radio experience was in 1965 when a neighborhood Elmer in NYC introduced him to the joys of working DX on 15 and chewing the rag on 2M AM using a Benton Harbor lunch but Recently, digital modes have been his primary interest, and for the past 20 years or so, has been operating packet radio and maintain-

ing the Kodak Park node (KPARK) and BBS (ROCBBS-WB2WXQ). He is currently the last elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club, a member of the Rochester Amateur Packet Society and trustee for the RAPS APRS digipeater KB2WYA, and last, but not least, maintains the RaRa-General and Rochester Special Events e-mail reflectors on <http://groups.yahoo.com/> Stop by and sign in sometime!

#### FOR BOD:

##### Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

First licensed, 1960 as KN7NPF in Seattle. Re-entered hobby, 1995 as KB2TQF. Extra Class license. Memberships: ARRL, RaRa, AWA, Ten-Ten; Board member, RaRa (3 yrs.), Antique Wireless Association Museum (2 yrs.). Acting RaRa Board secretary. RaRa activities: RAG articles, Rochester Hamfest presentation and displays; K2JD Station Redevelopment Committee, RaRa-Kodak-Otetiana Explorers Electronics Classes (3 yrs.); other public service events. Special interests: boat anchors, kits, QRP, DXCC, 2 meter ragchewing.

Statement of purpose: I believe Club growth is a positive, long-term process that should involve as many members as possible. Our present work on K2JD station redevelopment will build on past service of others to serve many constituencies in the Club. For me, Emergency Service, Public Service and Education are our priorities. Ham Radio must change with the times and always remain a members' organization.

#### FOR BOD:

##### Doug Howard KC2KNH

XYL is Linda. We have two adult children, Michelle and Jake. Have two Grandsons, Danny 15, Jacob 7 and two Granddaughters Jordan 6 and Halle 20 months. In addition we also have two Golden Retrievers, Shadow and Sabre which all keep us pretty busy. As you can guess from having a dog named Sabre, I have been quite involved with hockey. I have coached off and on for over thirty years, was involved with Perinton Youth Hockey from the beginning and now work as an off-ice official for the Monroe County High School Hockey League. I helped out at the Empire State



falo and plan to spend a couple of days this summer in Binghamton.

The first frequency that comes up on my radios is usually 160.800 MHz. which is the CSX main line channel. I can be found quite often in the village of Fairport watching the trains go by. I bought a Radio Shack HT-252 to listen to the trains and then decided since it had a microphone to get my Technician License in November 2002 with a little prodding from Brad, W1YX. My first radio was a Star Roamer which I built from a kit when I was about twelve. I now have my first "real" radio, a Yaesu FT-8800R which I purchased in December. I am still struggling with finding the time to learn the code. In the future I would then like to get a HF rig like the Kenwood TS-2000.

I have worked in electronics for over thirty years starting at General Dynamics in the late sixties, followed by a stint in the US Air force and NYANG as a Radio-Relay repairmen, and then at Radio Shack, General Railway Signal, Sykes Datatronics, Taylor Instruments, Detection Systems and for the last several years at Xerox.

There are so many interesting aspects of Amateur Radio; but what I have enjoyed the most is field days with the Xerox club and the fox hunts with Fred, W3MUD. I have also been impressed with the dedication and commitment of the radio class instructors Ray, WA2MYG, Al, N2VY, Art, W2YGW, and Ron, N2TLX, and all the hams that are so willing to Elmer. Looking forward to learning more with RaRa.

#### FOR BOD:

**Mike Toombs KB2WPT**

I received my Technician License December 1995 to help support STPR Rally in Pennsylvania. I have worked each rally since then as an amateur radio operator and in several other capacities. I have worked several public service events, Pumpkin Patrol, Empire Games, Bike-A-Thon etc. I have been a member of RARA since start of class in fall 1995. I joined ARRL as soon as I got my license. I have been a member of TAPR as well as RARRA and XARC. I am currently a member of RAPS and have been the secretary since 1997.

I have been a member of the Sports Car

Club of America, Finger Lakes Region for twenty years. During that time I have been on three different activity boards as well as the board of directors for the club. I was on the BOD for nine years, activities director for one year, vice president for one year, president for two years and member of the board for five years. This sports car club has taught me a lot of what is required to keep a large group of people focused on what is best for the club.

I am currently employed at Xerox as a network/system administrator in Fairport. I am married to Marsha KB2WPS and we live in the 19th Ward in Rochester.

#### FOR BOD:

**Peter Fournia, W2SKY**

I have actively worked with the RaRa BOD during the past 7 years and was either a BOD member or an officer for 4 of those years. I accepted the BOD nomination this year because I feel a need for the Title in support of my RaRa activities.

I focus on the future of our hobby, not the past. I want to stimulate amateur radio activities that are most appealing to youth. they are emergency preparedness, APRS, digital modes, satellite, remote control, WiFi and new technologies. Classical HF radio is low priority for me although I respect the fact that this is the current core of the hobby.

I am an extremely active ham and involved with both technical and organizational aspects of the hobby. They have been APRS, packet, ARISS, Radio Coaches, Explorers, satellite, field day, January VHF sweepstakes, ARES/RACES, all counties, WAS to name a handful.

I have been licensed since 1958 and hold an extra class license. Prior to my 1990 rebirth into the hobby I was active in other organizations including BOD member of the national hang gliding association, president of the Genesee Valley Ski Council and on the BOD of Frost Ridge Ski Area.

I am retired from Xerox Corporation where I was a senior engineer, physicist and project leader in development of numerous xerographic technologies.

#### FOR BOD:

**George Platteter, AA2FO**

I became a Technician in 1982 (KA2OMH) to fly airplanes on 6 meters; upgraded to General,

CONTINUED NONMINEES PAGE 6



(N2DSD) and then to Extra, and became a Contact Volunteer Examiner, then RaRa License Testing Director. Served several years as editor of the RaRa Rag, a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. Recently, as Vice President and President I was privileged to work with and encourage many members to become active.

The RaRa organization and Amateur Radio have a diverse range of exciting interests. I believe we should keep abreast of technologies and have fun doing it. It is important that we share our talents with others. I look forward to being a contributing member of the Board of Directors in 2004-2005 to help meet the needs of our Club members and support the excitement to enlist new members.

#### FOR BOD:

##### Ray Pickens WA2MYG

I was first licensed as a Novice March 1977, upgraded to Technician at the 1977 Rochester Hamfest. remained a Technician until I was grandfathered to General April 2000, then upgraded to Extra May 2001.

Over the years I've been very active in RRRA (Rochester Radio Repeater Assoc.), primary control station for the 146.28/88 K2RRR/R since 1978, Charter Corporate RRRA President 1981-82, RRRA Membership Chairman 1982-95, ran the Hamfest talk-in station 1980-95, member (not very active) in the Rochester VHF Group 1977 to present, the Genesee Repeater Assoc. 1977 to present, ARRL 1977 to present QCWA 2002 to present, and RaRa 1977 to present. I'm the RaRa License class Director (2002 to present), Editor of the RaRa RAG (2002 to present), and active with the RaRa VE team (2001 to present ARRL and LARC) and I'm the Contact Person for the Kodak (W5YI) VE team, and have been active with the Kodak team since 2001.

#### FOR BOD:

##### Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

I have served RaRa since 1980 in many capacities including two terms as President. My focus continues to be on public service and youth oriented outreach. Under my guidance as Director for Youth Programs, the Radio Coaches Program (a premier program nationally) is just ending its seventh semester of ser-

vice to Rochester Middle Schools, the Ham Radio Venture Group has completed its second season with 19 students enrolled and, new last year, a youth oriented license class with the Civil Air Patrol.. New last year is the Ham Radio Venture Group, serving youth 14 - 20, and is showing a bright future. Each of these programs owes its existence to the fine men and women of Amateur Radio who have donated an hour here and there (totaling many hours) to keep these programs operating. My hat is off to these men and women who do the real work of making it happen. Thank You!

## CALLING ALL PAST PRESIDENTS

#### Dick Goslee KG2I

Since the May Annual Meeting is "Old Timers Night" it would be good to see how many past Presidents we can get to attend. It has been a number of years since we have taken a picture of this group and this would be a great opportunity to do it again. Come on out and meet the newer members and get a picture taken. The picture will be printed in an upcoming issue of the RAG.

Speaking of past presidents, do you know is the oldest living President? Well in terms of when he was president that honor goes to Fred Halik, K2EU, 1956-57. He is followed by Jack L.R. Williams, K2JFV (also VE6JW) 1958-59, Ernst Sigmund, K2ITM 1960-61, Stan Hazen, K2SSB 1961-62, Clifford Milner, K2SKO 1964-65 and Harold Smith, K2HC 1965-66. In terms of their age the oldest honor goes to Ernst Sigmund who was born 10-2-1921. He is followed by Fred Halik, 4-1-1923, Jack Williams, 10-25-1923, Clifford Milner, 8-10-1928, Stan Hazen, 7-29-1929, and the youngster of the group Harold Smith, 12-27-1929.

Let's see how many of them can make the meeting and see their old friends, and the newer members as well.

### NEXT RAG DEADLINE 06/08/04

#### Silent Keys:

John R. Skinner	WA2GIJ	03/30/04
Thomas A. Fleming	N2WZX	12/24/03
Warren O. Ulrich	N2AUV	04/10/04
Thomas J. Sweeny	KC2IOF	04/18/04



# RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, May 1984

## Ed Gable K2MP

The big headline news in this issue was that, after long and difficult negotiations, there would be Amateur Exams administered at the Rochester Hamfest. The agreement was with the newly formed *Metroplex* VEC and Hamfest committee members Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, Jim Greer, KK2U and Exam Chairman John Schooley, K2NC. More of this *RaRa Rag* was also devoted to Hamfest news with the publishing of the full program, an article on ticket information and ordering and a column by K2RJ on the *Metroplex* organization. The program for the May meeting was on the 28/88, N2JC/R repeater and the addition of voting receivers and changes to the *fuzz-buzz* system. Writing for the Rochester VHF Group was Tom Richmond, WB2IEY, who reported the planned VHF Group picnic to be held at Mendon Ponds Park. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, reported that there were a record number of 15 public service events scheduled for the year. These included such events as: March of Dimes walk, Lake Ontario Marathon, STPR, Scotch Bonnett, Walnut Hill, Ginna, Canal-town Days, and more. The nominating Committee, consisting of K2YA, WA2ZNC and KB2WN, published their slate. Those nominated had profiles published. Harold Munday, KD2K, presented the results of his audit of the books of RaRa, the Hamfest and K2JD Engraving. His report found all in order and all properties accounted for. Robinson Rochester Cycles, despite not being our typical advertiser, maintained their quarter-page ad. From the Want Ads you could buy a Drake R4C and T4XB from Herb Haddleton, WA2MST for 500 bucks.

## AWA MUSEUM OPENS FOR THE SEASON

### Ed Gable K2MP Museum Curator

The A.W.A. Electronic Communication museum, in nearby Bloomfield, New York, opens for the season on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. This unique, local resource has an outstanding collection of vintage communications equipment. The museum theme is elec-

tronic communication and thus covers the telegraph, telephone, wireless, radio and TV themes. Prized artifacts include the first cell phone, the first transistorized transmitter, the first practical and functional transistorized super-het receiver, articles used in the development of the super-het by Major Armstrong, RCA's first radio product, working mechanical TV and much, much more. Come and key a 1 kW spark transmitter, you're only opportunity! This is a world class collection, is in your back yard, maintained by your friends and fellow hams, and admission is still, after over fifty years.... Free. If you haven't seen it... shame on you. Hours of operation are Sunday, 2 - 5 p.m. May through October 31<sup>st</sup>, and additionally 2 - 4 p.m. on Saturdays in June, July and August. Closed major Holidays. Contact the Curator, Ed Gable, K2MP, at (585) 392-3088, or [egable@rochester.rr.com](mailto:egable@rochester.rr.com) for information, group tours and how to donate artifacts.

## MAY MEETING SPECIAL EVENT

### Dick Goslee KG2I

We can't let the cat out of the bag just yet so you will have to "Trust Us" on this one. There will be a special event happening that evening that you won't want to miss. So come on down and join the fun and who knows, you might be the lucky one to pick up the nice swivel chair that we always have at the May meeting.

## BPL AND THINGS TO CONSIDER HOW DID WE GET HERE?

### Walter Obenhofer NQ20

Be aware that BPL is not a New Flower, just starting to bloom. This flower was seeded, tended and nourished with great care for more than two (2) decades. For the gardeners a success, a product of great expectations and promise.

Starting at 1.7 MHz up to 30 MHz, the HF Bands have been gradually relinquished by their former users. All News Services, a large part of the former users, AP, UPI, NBC, CBS

CONTINUED BPL PAGE 8



and many more, have long switched to newer technology namely satellite and relinquished their former licenses to specific HF Frequencies. The ARMY, AIR FORCE and NAVY have long ceased to communicate, long distance, via CW, RTTY, AMTOR, etc, etc. Military communication, vehicle to vehicle, is on channelized FM, beyond HF, Division to Division or HQ is via Satellite Command. Naval Com. is via Satellite as opposed to Shore to Ship earlier. The Air Force flies strictly by GPS as opposed to land or ship based beacons earlier. In addition, nearly all major Shipping, Cruise Companies and Air Lines have given up their regular use of private, Shore to Ship, (Land to Vessel as it was referred to) communication and utilize satellites now. By privately owned is "Company owned or shared" to be understood and specific frequencies licensed to those companies or services. The Medical, Industrial and Scientific part of the HF Spectrum is largely unaffected since it is exclusively consisting of radiators, X-mitters for a specific use or purpose.

That leaves the Commercial Broadcasting Service. No US based Short-wave Station expects you to listen to them but are directed outside the US. These stations are primarily Governmental, VOA, LIBERTY and several others directed at Mid Eastern and Non Democratic countries. The other lot of Broadcasters is Religious in nature. Besides, if you can find an "AMERICAN MADE" radio with a Short-wave Section, made "AFTER W.W.II" let me know. The American Electronics Industry has denied you Short-wave Radio listening that long. Any radios with Short-wave capabilities are either pre W.W.II or post W.W.II Import.

Last but not least now the Hams. Yes, we do have Bands, spaced according to utility. If you have ever spent any time on any HF Band and consciously listened you must have noticed that we were "are" not the "EXCLUSIVE USERS". Let me point out at this time that the entire Spectrum is divided into three (3) Regions commercially as well as for Hams. So, other than Ham traffic could therefore originate somewhere else than in Region II in which we are.

Considering the Wholesale abandonment of the HF Spectrum in favor of Micro Waves, LOS, (Towers Line of Sight) and Satellites

produced a Wasteland of HF Spectrum. It is this fact that brought us the so-called WARC Bands, 10.1 MHz or 31 m; 18.768 MHz or 17 m; 24.9 MHz or 12 meters and recently additional frequencies on 5.5 MHz or 60 m Band. It is no wonder that the now barren HF Spectrum inspired new uses.

Now consider the Spectrum from 30 MHz to 70 MHz. That section is similar to the HF Region. Shared by Public Services, Police, Fire, Medical, Business, Industry, TV, Sciences and Hams. Established users, confined to FCC assigned Frequencies and licensed accordingly, heavily use the Band. It is almost exclusively FM, short range or via repeaters. Given on how FM works the impact of BPL will have to be determined. As for the six meter (6) Band any observant user should have long noticed other than Ham Activity. As for TV, only recipients in fringe areas with Rabbit Ear Antennas might experience difficulties

One last point to consider, it must be clear and known to each user, Licensee, that the FCC, US Government, has the last word. In case of a National Emergency, all private communications could cease, to the exclusive use of authorized Services in the interest of the Nation. FEMA and the NTIA are fully aware of that.

BPL, be it good or bad, has seen the light of day and will be around for a while. How long, no one can predict at this time. Success or failure will depend on the quality, cost and services provided. All this does not mean that the Ham Community would no longer have to worry about interference or losing Spectrum on the contrary other and additional uses are already contemplated by the industries.



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# TALK UP AMATEUR RADIO



## Radio Operators Needed For STPR04

(SUSQEHANNOUK TRAIL PRO RALLY)

Roger Harnaart WB2BWQ

You may have seen the video of the past years STPR on Jon Dickason's computer screen, at the April meeting, and heard all about the use of APRS for tracking people. These are examples of how Amateur Radio helps run the Rally.

What didn't get a good mention is the use of Packet radio to relay the cars times from the field (woods) back into Welisboro so that scoring can be done and each car can receive a sheet showing their standing when they arrive in town. This is a very good way to show that the Amateurs have the knowledge, skills and equipment to do a job under less than "cushy" conditions.

I know that it is the same weekend as OUR Hamfest. It is a 2.5 hour drive to get there. You need to be in Welisboro, PA by 9 AM. But, if you work on Packet you will be done by 2 PM, and the rest of the day is yours to spectate the Rally or whatever. You will not be alone down there. Over 500 people work on this event. Over 30 are Hams. If you would like to try packet, and have mobile equipment, please call me, Roger Harnaart @ 292-6665 so that we can talk about it. I also have the e-mail addresses for the communications chief and others needing help. Hope you can make it.

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## RaRa

### Amateur Radio

### License Testing

All Elements Needed To Complete  
a License Class

**Saturday MAY 15, 2004**

Contact Cheryl Joyce AB2NU

For any special needs (585-533-9252)

Registration - 8:30 AM.

Testing - 9:00 AM

Room 2150, Building 76

(Park in Lot F)

Rochester Institute of Technology

1 Lomb Memorial Drive

Rochester, NY 14623

## HAMFEST VE TESTING

04-Jun-2004

Sponsor: ROCHESTER ARC HAMFEST

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: CHERYL A JOYCE

(585)533-9252

Email: [C\\_J\\_JOYCE@EXCITE.COM](mailto:C_J_JOYCE@EXCITE.COM)

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](http://ARRL/VEC)

Location: Monroe county fairgrounds dome  
arena

Corner Henrietta & Calkins Rd's

Pre-reg requested by 5/15/04

Guarantees space @ test site

Rochester, NY 14623

05-Jun-2004

Sponsor: ROCHESTER ARC HAMFEST

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: CHERYL A JOYCE

(585)533-9252

Email: [C\\_J\\_JOYCE@EXCITE.COM](mailto:C_J_JOYCE@EXCITE.COM)

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arena

corner Henrietta & Calkins Rd's.

Pre-reg requested by 5/15/04

Guarantees space @ test site

Rochester, NY 14623

## RaRa HOTLINE

**(585) 442-0587 24X7**

*RaRa RAG 9*



## Rochester Hamfest and

**Computer Show  
Combined with the  
Atlantic Division  
ARRL Convention  
June 4-5-6, 2004**

**MONROE COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS  
Route 15A-Rochester, NY  
CONVENTION TIMETABLE**

### Friday, June 4:

6:00 a.m.-Outdoor Flea Market Open \*  
12:00 noon-5:30 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open  
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Programs  
6:30 p.m.-Annual Awards Banquet

### Saturday, June 5:

8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open  
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Programs

### Sunday, June 6:

8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - Exhibit Hall Open  
12:30 p.m. - GRAND AWARD

\* Outdoor Flea Market runs continuously all weekend.

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**TAKE NOTE OF JUNE RAG  
DEADLINE 06/08/04**

*CONTINUED FROM OLD TIMER'S PAGE 1*

that Jim had to shorten his presentation somewhat. All of the reports and discussions during the meeting were entirely appropriate, and I was glad to see the vigor and variety of the local amateur community well represented, however I have given some thought as to how we can avoid this situation in the future and will make improvements as I can. I think that the best thing we can do as a group to improve the meetings would be to vote at the annual meeting to approve scheduling the general membership meeting a half hour earlier for next season. This will allow for more time for the presentation – and more time for socializing when the business meetings run at their normal length. Well, enough on that; now back to what you really want to hear about!

The presentation for our May general membership meeting will be by Ed Gable, K2MP. He will be continuing the ever-popular tradition of Old Timer's Night. Ed will be departing from the usual topics presented at previous Old Timer's Nights and will concentrate on the history of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association. He will talk about how the club was formed, past club events, and will close with a touch of history of the club and ARES/RACES amateur radio stations. Ed will also be departing from previous Old Timer's Nights in another, perhaps more notable way: He will be retiring his slide projector in favor of a computer and LCD projector. This is truly an evening not to be missed, and I have good reason to believe that Ed's presentation will be educational, fun-filled, and very memorable. Don't miss it!

Ed Gable is one of Rochester's most active and well-known Amateurs. He is our club's Historian and a Past President. Licensed in 1957 as WN2MPM, Ed became very active in local Ham organizations. He was twice Chairman of the Rochester VHF Group, is a Past President of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association and past Secretary of the Rochester DX Association. He currently holds the titles of Assistant Director for the ARRL Atlantic Division and Assistant Section Manager for the ARRL WNY Section. He was twice selected as the Atlantic Division Radio Amateur of the Year. Ed retired after 32 years with Harris/RF and is now enjoying working with the gang at the AWA Museum (<http://www.antiquewireless.org>) *BOTTOM NEXT PAGE*



## UP COMING PLUBIC SERVICE EVENTS

Keith Freeberg N2BEL

Calling all amateurs! We need your help. We have received lots of requests from Rochester community non-profits for communications help. The awareness of what amateur radio can do is growing and now, more than ever before, is the time to consider volunteering a few hours to help your friends and neighbors.

These events will leverage as many modes of amateur radio as is fitting the type of event and will be a great way to keep your emergency communications skills sharp. Here are just a few of the events this summer;

E-Cubed Fair at RIT - May 6, 2004 -- 10-2 & 7-9, Tour de Cure - June 13, 2004 -- variable length assignments Stuart Horse Trials - July one day event on web site soon MS150 - August 21 & 22 - two day, work some or all- free stay Alzheimer Memory Walks - September 12 & 19 multi-city events - half day Fall Foliage Tour - two days on the fingerlakes wine trail - free stay Walk for Diabetes - October 2 -- Ellison Park Area - half day Pumpkin Patrol -- October 30 & 31.

Please check [rochesterham.org](http://rochesterham.org) for descriptions and links. Information will be updated every two weeks. Questions? Please call or email per information posted in the front of the newsletter.

### WANTED:

Volunteers to help man the Hamfest Talk-in Station June 4-6 2004. Any and all the time You can spare, please contact KB2CHY Brad Allen [ballen@frontiernet.net](mailto:ballen@frontiernet.net).

CONTINUED FROM OLD TIMER'S PAGE 10  
as its Curator.

My hope for this year has been to find as many ways for folks to get involved in local amateur activities as I can and learn a little along the way. This has been an unqualified success. General meeting attendance is on the rise, and I have learned much from the speakers I was lucky enough to be able to corral for this season. If you have a program idea for next season, please contact me regarding it anyway, as I am keeping a list of ideas to help our next VP. Don't forget to set aside Saturday, June 19th to attend the annual RaRa picnic in Ellison Park.

## SPRING FOX-HUNT

Bob Karz K2OID

The Xerox Amateur Radio Club is hosting its Spring Foxhunt Saturday, May 8 rain or shine. The hunt will start at 9:00 AM from a location within Monroe County to be announced. The fox will be hidden within 10 miles of the starting point. The hunt is free and open to all. It draws hams with a broad range of skills and equipment. All you need is a 2M handheld to participate. The hunt has been going on for several years and typically involves about 20 participants and about 7 or 8 teams. It typically takes 2 - 3 hours for everyone to find the fox. This is a good opportunity for hams in the Rochester area to see what fox hunting is all about.

For more information either send a email to Bob Karz at [K2OID@arrl.net](mailto:K2OID@arrl.net) or monitor the Xerox repeater (145.29) Saturday morning after 8:30 the day of the hunt.

## RaRa License Class

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

We started last semester (September 8<sup>th</sup> - November 24<sup>th</sup> with 20 combined course students. Within the first three weeks 3 more students joined the Class, by the 9<sup>th</sup> week there were 4 dropouts putting us back to 19 students. On the bright side we had 7 upgrades, 3 Technicians/Code, and 3 new Technicians

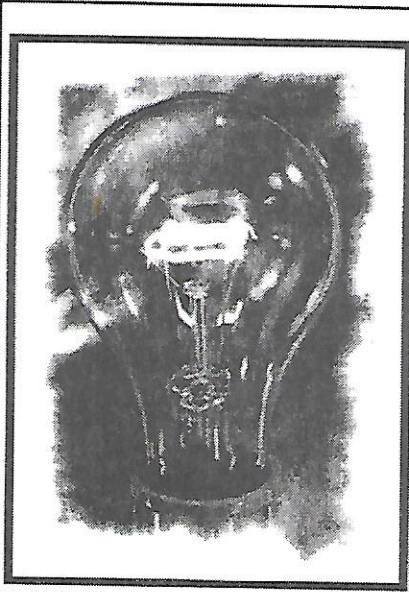
The new License Class started February 16, 2004, as of Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> the 10<sup>th</sup> week of a 12 week coarse there are 16 students left out the 18 that started on February 16<sup>th</sup> not to shabby.

Class License Examinations to be taken at the scheduled RaRa VE session 08:30 May 15, 2004, building 76 room 2150. It is my hope that this semester will at the very least equal if not surpass the number of upgrades and new licensees, some of the students (5) already either upgraded or passed the entry level Technician at the April 15<sup>th</sup> RaRa VE session a final report will be in the June RAG.

**THE NEXT HAM RADIO  
LUNCHEON 05/28/2004  
OLD COUNTRY BUFFET  
LOCATED IN STONE-RIDGE PLAZA**

RARA RAG 11





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